

A bill for an act

relating to commerce; regulating continuing education requirements, insurance coverages, adjusters, and appraisers; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 45.011, subdivision 1; 45.25, by adding subdivisions; 45.30, subdivision 7, by adding a subdivision; 45.35; 60K.56, subdivision 6; 62A.095, subdivision 1; 62A.318, subdivision 17; 62E.14, subdivision 3, by adding a subdivision; 62L.03, subdivision 3; 72B.041, subdivision 5; 79A.06, subdivision 5; 79A.24, by adding subdivisions; 82.641, subdivision 1; 82B.11, subdivision 6; 82B.13, by adding a subdivision; 82B.14; 82C.08, subdivision 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 45; 72B; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.25, subdivision 3.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.011, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** As used in chapters 45 to 80C, 80E to 83, 155A, 332, 332A, 332B, 345, and 359, and sections 123A.21, subdivision 7, paragraph (a), clause (23); 123A.25; 325D.30 to 325D.42; 326B.802 to 326B.885; 386.61 to 386.78; 471.617; and 471.982, unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.25, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 2a. **Classroom course.** "Classroom course" means an educational process based on no geographical separation of instructor and learner.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.25, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5a. **Distance learning course.** "Distance learning course" means an education process based on the geographical separation of instructor and learner. This includes, but is not limited to:

(1) an interactive Internet course; and

(2) a course taught live by the instructor via the Internet, video, or other electronic means.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.25, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 14. **Self-study course.** "Self-study course" means a distance learning course that is not entirely taught by the instructor live via the Internet, video, or other electronic means.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.30, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6a. **Professional designation coursework.** Approved courses leading to the achievement or maintenance of a professional designation listed in section 60K.36, subdivision 4a, qualify for continuing education.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.30, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

Subd. 7. **Courses open to all.** (a) All course offerings must be open to any interested individuals. Access may be restricted by the education provider based on class size only, except that access to a course offering sponsored by, offered by, or affiliated with an insurance company or agency may be restricted to agents of the company or agency. Courses must not be approved if attendance is restricted to any particular group of people, except for company-sponsored courses allowed by statute.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), attendance at approved courses leading to the achievement or maintenance of a professional designation listed in section 60K.36, subdivision 4a, may be limited to those producers seeking the professional designation or those producers who have met prerequisite coursework for the course offering. Courses leading to the achievement or maintenance of a professional designation listed in section 60K.36, subdivision 4a, may require a prerequisite such as candidacy for the designation or sequential coursework relating to the attainment or maintenance of the designation. A course leading to the achievement or maintenance of a professional designation listed in section 60K.36, subdivision 4a, is not considered to be company sponsored unless it is provided by an insurance company.

Sec. 7. **[45.304] VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

A self-study course must not be approved unless it is objectively verifiable that:

(1) it includes a closed-book, end-of-course examination; and

(2) successful completion of the end-of-course examination can be objectively documented.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.35, is amended to read:

45.35 FACILITIES.

Each course of study, except self-study courses, must be conducted in a classroom or other facility that is adequate to comfortably accommodate the faculty and the number of students enrolled. The education provider may limit the number of students enrolled in a course. Approved courses must not be held on the premises of a company doing business in the regulated area, except for company-sponsored courses allowed by statute or noncompany sponsored courses offered by a bona fide trade association. A bona fide trade association may offer noncompany sponsored courses on the premises of an insurance company or agency so long as the course is not restricted to employees or appointed agents of the insurance company or agency.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 60K.56, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Minimum education requirement.** Each person subject to this section shall complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of courses accredited by the commissioner during each licensing period. No more than one-half of the credit hours per licensing period required under this section may be credited to a person for attending courses either sponsored by, offered by, or affiliated with an insurance company or its agents. For the purposes of this subdivision, a course provided by a bona fide insurance trade association is not considered to be sponsored by, offered by, or affiliated with an insurance company or its agents regardless of the location of the course offering. A licensee must obtain three hours of the credit hours per licensing period from a class or classes in the area of ethics. Courses sponsored by, offered by, or affiliated with an insurance company or agent may restrict its students to agents of the company or agency. Courses not sponsored by an insurance company must be open to all unless an exception listed in section 45.30 applies.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 62A.095, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** (a) ~~No~~ A health plan shall ~~may not~~ be offered, sold, or issued to a resident of this state, or to cover a resident of this state, unless the health plan complies with subdivision 2.

(b) Health plans providing benefits under health care programs administered by the commissioner of human services are not subject to the limits described in subdivision 2 but are subject to the right of subrogation provisions under section 256B.37 and the lien provisions under section 256.015; 256B.042; 256D.03, subdivision 8; or 256L.03, subdivision 6.

For purposes of this section, "health plan" includes coverage that is excluded under section 62A.011, subdivision 3, clauses (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10).

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 62A.318, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

Subd. 17. **Types of plans.** Medicare select policies and certificates must ~~be either a basic plan or an extended basic plan~~ provide the coverages specified in sections 62A.315 to 62A.3165. Before a Medicare select policy or certificate is sold or issued in this state, the applicant must be provided with an explanation of coverage for ~~both a Medicare select basic and a Medicare select extended basic policy or certificate~~ each of the coverages specified in sections 62A.315 to 62A.3165 and must be provided with the opportunity of purchasing ~~either a Medicare select basic or a Medicare select extended basic policy~~ such coverage. The basic plan may also include any of the optional benefit riders authorized by section 62A.316. Preventive care provided by Medicare select policies or certificates must be provided as set forth in section 62A.315 or 62A.316, except that the benefits are as defined in chapter 62D.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 62E.14, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Preexisting conditions.** ~~No~~ A person who obtains coverage pursuant to this section ~~shall be~~ is not covered for any preexisting condition during the first six months of coverage under the state plan if the person was diagnosed or treated for that condition during the 90 days immediately preceding the date the application was received by the writing carrier, except as provided under subdivisions 3a, 4, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e, 5, 6, and 7 and section 62E.18.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 62E.14, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4f. **Waiver of preexisting conditions; persons covered by a community-based health care coverage program.** A person may enroll in the comprehensive plan, with a waiver of preexisting condition limitation in subdivision 3, if the following requirements are met:

(1) the person was formerly enrolled in a community-based health care coverage program under section 62Q.80;

(2) the person is a Minnesota resident; and

(3) the person submits an application for coverage that is received by the writing carrier no later than 90 days after coverage under the community-based health care program is terminated. For purposes of this clause, termination of coverage includes exceeding the maximum lifetime or annual benefit on existing coverage, or moving out of an area served by the program.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 62L.03, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Minimum participation and contribution.** (a) A small employer that has at least 75 percent of its eligible employees who have not waived coverage participating in a health benefit plan and that contributes at least 50 percent toward the cost of coverage of each eligible employee must be guaranteed coverage on a guaranteed issue basis from any health carrier participating in the small employer market. The participation level of eligible employees must be determined at the initial offering of coverage and at the renewal date of coverage. A health carrier must not increase the participation requirements applicable to a small employer at any time after the small employer has been accepted for coverage. For the purposes of this subdivision, waiver of coverage includes only waivers due to: (1) coverage under another group health plan; (2) coverage under Medicare Parts A and B; or (3) ~~coverage under MCHA permitted under section 62E.141; or~~ (4) coverage under medical assistance under chapter 256B or general assistance medical care under chapter 256D.

(b) If a small employer does not satisfy the contribution or participation requirements under this subdivision, a health carrier may voluntarily issue or renew individual health plans, or a health benefit plan which must fully comply with this chapter. A health carrier that provides a health benefit plan to a small employer that does not meet the contribution or participation requirements of this subdivision must maintain this information in its files for audit by the commissioner. A health carrier may not offer an individual health plan, purchased through an arrangement between the employer and the health carrier, to any employee unless the health carrier also offers the individual health plan, on a guaranteed issue basis, to all other employees of the same employer. An arrangement permitted under section 62L.12, subdivision 2, paragraph (k), is not an arrangement between the employer and the health carrier for purposes of this paragraph.

(c) Nothing in this section obligates a health carrier to issue coverage to a small employer that currently offers coverage through a health benefit plan from another health

carrier, unless the new coverage will replace the existing coverage and not serve as one of two or more health benefit plans offered by the employer. This paragraph does not apply if the small employer will meet the required participation level with respect to the new coverage.

Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 72B.041, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. Exceptions. (a) An individual who applies for an adjuster license in this state who is or was licensed in another state for the same lines of authority based on an adjuster examination is not required to complete a prelicensing examination. This exemption is only available if the person is currently licensed in another state or if that state license has expired and the application is received by this state within 90 days of expiration. The applicant must provide certification from the other state that the applicant's license is currently in good standing or was in good standing at the time of expiration or certification from the other state that its producer database records, maintained by the NAIC, its affiliates, or its subsidiaries, indicate that the applicant or the applicant's company is or was licensed in good standing. The certification must be of a license with the same line of authority for which the individual has applied.

(b) A person licensed as an adjuster in another state based on an adjuster examination who establishes legal residency in this state must make application within 90 days to become a resident adjuster licensee pursuant to this section, with the exception that no prelicensing examination is required of this person.

~~(c) A person who has held a license of any given class or in any field or fields within three years prior to the application shall be entitled to a renewal of the license in the same class or in the same fields without taking an examination.~~

~~(d)~~ A person applying for a license as a crop hail adjuster shall not be required to comply with the requirements of subdivision 4.

(d) A person applying for the crop line of authority who has satisfactorily completed the National Crop Insurance Services Crop Adjuster Proficiency Program or the loss adjustment training curriculum and competency testing required by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Standard Reinsurance Agreement is exempt from the requirements of subdivision 4.

Sec. 16. **[72B.055] MULTIPLE PERIL CROP INSURANCE ADJUSTMENTS.**

A licensed crop hail adjuster who has satisfactorily completed the loss adjustment training curriculum and competency testing required by the Federal Crop Insurance

Corporation (FCIC) Standard Reinsurance Agreement may act as an adjuster in this state in regard to Multiple Peril Crop Insurance policies regulated by the FCIC.

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 79A.06, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. **Private employers who have ceased to be self-insured.** (a) Private employers who have ceased to be private self-insurers shall discharge their continuing obligations to secure the payment of compensation which is accrued during the period of self-insurance, for purposes of Laws 1988, chapter 674, sections 1 to 21, by compliance with all of the following obligations of current certificate holders:

(1) Filing reports with the commissioner to carry out the requirements of this chapter;

(2) Depositing and maintaining a security deposit for accrued liability for the payment of any compensation which may become due, pursuant to chapter 176. However, if a private employer who has ceased to be a private self-insurer purchases an insurance policy from an insurer authorized to transact workers' compensation insurance in this state which provides coverage of all claims for compensation arising out of injuries occurring during the entire period the employer was self-insured, whether or not reported during that period, the policy will:

(i) discharge the obligation of the employer to maintain a security deposit for the payment of the claims covered under the policy;

(ii) discharge any obligation which the self-insurers' security fund has or may have for payment of all claims for compensation arising out of injuries occurring during the period the employer was self-insured, whether or not reported during that period; and

(iii) discharge the obligations of the employer to pay any future assessments to the self-insurers' security fund; provided, however, that a member that terminates its self-insurance authority on or after August 1, 2010, shall be liable for an assessment under paragraph (b). The actuarial opinion shall not take into consideration any transfer of the member's liabilities to an insurance policy if the member obtains a replacement policy as described in this subdivision within one year of the date of terminating its self-insurance.

A private employer who has ceased to be a private self-insurer may instead buy an insurance policy described above, except that it covers only a portion of the period of time during which the private employer was self-insured; purchase of such a policy discharges any obligation that the self-insurers' security fund has or may have for payment of all claims for compensation arising out of injuries occurring during the period for which the policy provides coverage, whether or not reported during that period.

A policy described in this clause may not be issued by an insurer unless it has previously been approved as to the insurer, form, and substance by the commissioner; and

(3) Paying within 30 days all assessments of which notice is sent by the security fund, for a period of seven years from the last day its certificate of self-insurance was in effect. Thereafter, the private employer who has ceased to be a private self-insurer may either: (i) continue to pay within 30 days all assessments of which notice is sent by the security fund until it has no incurred liabilities for the payment of compensation arising out of injuries during the period of self-insurance; or (ii) pay the security fund a cash payment equal to four percent of the net present value of all remaining incurred liabilities for the payment of compensation under sections 176.101 and 176.111 as certified by a member of the casualty actuarial society. Assessments shall be based on the benefits paid by the employer during the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the employer's right to self-insure is terminated or withdrawn.

(b) With respect to a self-insurer who terminates its self-insurance authority after April 1, 1998, that member shall obtain and file with the commissioner an actuarial opinion of its outstanding liabilities as determined by an associate or fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society within 120 days of the date of its termination. If the actuarial opinion is not timely filed, the self-insurers' security fund may, at its discretion, engage the services of an actuary for this purpose. The expense of this actuarial opinion must be assessed against and be the obligation of the self-insurer. The commissioner may issue a certificate of default against the self-insurer for failure to pay this assessment to the self-insurers' security fund as provided by section 79A.04, subdivision 9. The opinion may discount liabilities up to four percent per annum to net present value. Within 60 days after notification of approval of the actuarial opinion by the commissioner, the exiting member shall pay to the security fund an amount determined as follows: a percentage will be determined by dividing the security fund's members' deficit as determined by the most recent audited financial statement of the security fund by the total actuarial liability of all members of the security fund as calculated by the commissioner within 30 days of the exit date of the member. This quotient will then be multiplied by that exiting member's total future liability as contained in the exiting member's actuarial opinion. If the payment is not made within 30 days of the notification, interest on it at the rate prescribed by section 549.09 must be paid by the former member to the security fund until the principal amount is paid in full.

(c) A former member who terminated its self-insurance authority before April 1, 1998, who has paid assessments to the self-insurers' security fund for seven years, and whose annualized assessment is \$15,000 or less, may buy out of its outstanding liabilities to the self-insurers' security fund by an amount calculated as follows: 1.35 multiplied by

the indemnity case reserves at the time of the calculation, multiplied by the then current self-insurers' security fund annualized assessment rate.

(d) A former member who terminated its self-insurance authority before April 1, 1998, and who is paying assessments within the first seven years after ceasing to be self-insured under paragraph (a), clause (3), may elect to buy out its outstanding liabilities to the self-insurers' security fund by obtaining and filing with the commissioner an actuarial opinion of its outstanding liabilities as determined by an associate or fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society. The opinion must separate liability for indemnity benefits from liability for medical benefits, and must discount each up to four percent per annum to net present value. Within 30 days after notification of approval of the actuarial opinion by the commissioner, the member shall pay to the security fund an amount equal to 120 percent of that discounted outstanding indemnity liability, multiplied by the greater of the average annualized assessment rate since inception of the security fund or the annual rate at the time of the most recent assessment.

(e) A former member who has paid the security fund according to paragraphs (b) to (d) and subsequently receives authority from the commissioner to again self-insure shall be assessed under section 79A.12, subdivision 2, only on indemnity benefits paid on injuries that occurred after the former member received authority to self-insure again; provided that the member furnishes verified data regarding those benefits to the security fund.

(f) In addition to proceedings to establish liabilities and penalties otherwise provided, a failure to comply may be the subject of a proceeding before the commissioner. An appeal from the commissioner's determination may be taken pursuant to the contested case procedures of chapter 14 within 30 days of the commissioner's written determination.

Any current or past member of the self-insurers' security fund is subject to service of process on any claim arising out of chapter 176 or this chapter in the manner provided by section 5.25, or as otherwise provided by law. The issuance of a certificate to self-insure to the private self-insured employer shall be deemed to be the agreement that any process which is served in accordance with this section shall be of the same legal force and effect as if served personally within this state.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 79A.24, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 5. Purchase of insurance policy from an authorized insurer. A commercial self-insurance group may purchase an insurance policy from an insurer authorized to transact workers' compensation insurance in this state which provides coverage of all

claims for compensation arising out of injuries occurring during the entire period or during a portion of the period of time in which the commercial self-insurance group has been in existence. While the insurance policy remains in effect, it discharges the obligation of the commercial self-insurance group to maintain a security deposit for the claims covered under the policy. A policy described in this subdivision may not be issued by an insurer unless it has previously been approved as to the insurer, form, and substance by the commissioner.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 79A.24, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. **Insolvency of a commercial self-insurance group insurer.** In the event of the insolvency of the insurer that issued a policy under subdivision 5 to a commercial self-insurance group, eligibility for chapter 60C coverage under the policy is determined by applying the requirements of section 60C.09, subdivision 2, clause (3), to each commercial self-insurance group member separately, rather than to the net worth of the commercial self-insurance group entity or aggregate net worth of all members of the commercial self-insurance group.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 82.641, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. ~~Generally~~ **License required.** A person shall not act as a real estate closing agent unless licensed as provided in this section. The commissioner shall issue a license as a closing agent to a person who qualifies for the license under the terms of this chapter.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 82B.11, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

Subd. 6. **Temporary practice.** (a) The commissioner shall issue a license for temporary practice as a real estate appraiser under subdivision 3, 4, or 5 to a person certified or licensed by another state if:

(1) the property to be appraised is part of a federally related transaction and the person is licensed to appraise property limited to the same transaction value or complexity provided in subdivision 3, 4, or 5;

(2) the appraiser's business is of a temporary nature; and

(3) the appraiser registers with the commissioner to obtain a temporary license before conducting appraisals within the state.

(b) The term of a temporary practice license is the lesser of:

(1) the time required to complete the assignment; or

(2) ~~six~~ 12 months, ~~with one extension allowed.~~

~~The appraiser may request one extension of no more than six months on a form provided by the commissioner.~~ If more than 12 months are necessary to complete the assignment, a new temporary application and fee is required.

Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 82B.13, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 8. **Appraiser prelicense education.** Notwithstanding section 45.22, a college or university real estate course may be approved retroactively by the commissioner for appraiser prelicense education credit if:

(1) the course was offered by a college or university physically located in Minnesota;

(2) the college or university was an approved education provider at the time the course was offered; and

(3) the commissioner's approval is made to the same extent in terms of courses and hours and with the same time limits as those specified by the Appraiser Qualifications Board.

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 82B.14, is amended to read:

82B.14 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT.

(a) As a prerequisite for licensing as a licensed real property appraiser, an applicant must present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has obtained 2,000 hours of experience in real property appraisal obtained in no fewer than 12 months.

As a prerequisite for licensing as a certified residential real property appraiser, an applicant must present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has obtained 2,500 hours of experience in real property appraisal obtained in no fewer than 24 months.

As a prerequisite for licensing as a certified general real property appraiser, an applicant must present evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has obtained 3,000 hours of experience in real property appraisal obtained in no fewer than 30 months. At least 50 percent, or 1,500 hours, must be in nonresidential appraisal work.

(b) Each applicant for license under section 82B.11, subdivision 3, 4, or 5, shall give under oath a detailed listing of the real estate appraisal reports or file memoranda

for which experience is claimed by the applicant. Upon request, the applicant shall make available to the commissioner for examination, a sample of appraisal reports that the applicant has prepared in the course of appraisal practice.

~~(c) Notwithstanding section 45.22, a college or university real estate course may be approved retroactively by the commissioner for appraiser prelicense education credit if:~~

~~(1) the course was offered by a college or university physically located in Minnesota;~~

~~(2) the college or university was an approved education provider at the time the course was offered;~~

~~(3) the commissioner's approval is made to the same extent in terms of courses and hours and with the same time limits as those specified by the Appraiser Qualifications Board.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) Applicants may not receive credit for experience accumulated while unlicensed, if the experience is based on activities which required a license under this section.

~~(e)~~ (d) Experience for all classifications must be obtained after January 30, 1989, and must be USPAP compliant.

Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 82C.08, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Amounts.** (a) Each application for initial licensure shall be accompanied by a fee of \$5,000.

(b) Each application for renewal of the license must be received prior to ~~the two-year~~ its expiration ~~period~~ with the renewal fee of \$2,500.

Sec. 25. **REPEALER.**

Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 45.25, subdivision 3, is repealed.

APPENDIX
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: s1045-1

45.25 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 3. **Classroom hour.** "Classroom hour" means a 50-minute hour. Breaks must not be accumulated in order to dismiss the class early. Classes must not be offered to any one student for longer than eight hours in one day, excluding meal breaks.